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Jack Guinn Says

We Prefer Something Like Lent

A FEW days ago, if you recall, there were reports in the paper of an inconclusive exchange between President Kennedy and Alicia Patterson, publisher of Newsday, a Long Island newspaper. She said the president had been pretty vague about what sacrifices he expected from the American people. So he explained it. And the explanation was pretty vague.

Ordinarily you could just write this off as another instance of a leader politely suggesting that a nose-y newspaper person go peddle the papers, but in view of later developments this unwillingness to be specific becomes darkly ominous.

And this is not fair to the average citizen, who has all he can do now worrying about statements the leaders have already made without adding the extra misery of thinking about what they haven't said yet.

It has been reported from Washington that Frank Ellis, who is in charge of protecting its civilians, told a House subcommittee that Russia is building enough air raid shelters to protect "the great majority" of the citizens. This is something to think about, even if he got this information from the CIA and it's only half right.

On the other hand, the Associated Press reports from Texas that they are building a big underground hideout down there that will hold 300 persons and serve as an alternate national capital in the event of attack. This is partly understandable, since Texas is the only place in the United States, outside of Washington, D. C., where at any time of the year it is preferable to be underground.

There are to be seven more of these things, including one at Denver, but any way you count it you can't make it add up to more than 4,000 rescued people.

So there you are, Alicia Patterson. You couldn't have a better sacrifice if you called in some Aztecs with stone knives.

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